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LOCAL 90

Testimony on behalf of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Labor Committee

February 10th, 2011

Senator Prague, Representative Zelaski, and members of the Labor Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) to ask your support for a number of the bills before you today.

First and foremost, the IBEW supports SB 480, AAC Construction Safety Refresher Training Courses. The IBEW supports construction safety (OSHA) training and was instrumental in the passage of the original Connecticut law establishing the requirement that workers on public works projects complete a 10 hour OSHA Safety Training course. However, as this law has been implemented, it turned out that taking the 10 hour course every five years, as Connecticut mandates, was contrary to what is established by federal OSHA and quite duplicative for those who also take continuing education courses every year. Much of the same information is covered in both courses, and the IBEW feels it would be a better use of time for both workers and trainers if the course was reduced to a minimum of 4 hours every five years after the completion of the first 10 hour course. We appreciate the committee raising this bill and strongly support it.

The IBEW would also like to state support for SB 850, AAC the Department of Administrative Services, Department of Transportation, and Prequalification and Evaluation of Contractors. We supported this bill last year, and note that this year's bill is an improved version as it is more comprehensive that last year's version. We support efforts to strengthen the prequalification process for contractors on public works projects and feel this bill should pass.

Lastly, the IBEW supports SB 798, AA Requiring Double Damages to be Awarded in Civil Actions to Collect Wages, and we request that the Committee support it as well.

Thank you,

Sean Daly
IBEW Local 90